



Superintendent's Report

To: Board Members
From: Leah M. Christman
Date: July 15, 2013

- Plans for the Admin retreat are finalized for this week- July 17-19 to be held at the HS Board Room. Topics include:
 - Review of SMART goals and development of building and department data and improvement plans for 2013-14. These will be completed and posted on the website by September 16.
 - Six Thinking Hats (deBono,1999) model and preparation for our new strategic planning process. We need volunteers from all stakeholder groups to volunteer to help develop our direction for 2014-2016.
 - Presentation by our Labor Attorney, Ellis Katz on the new Educator Effectiveness law and processes administrators need to know for supervision and evaluation of staff.
 - Regular Administrative meeting (Friday) with topics to prepare for the new school year.
- Check out the latest edition of the Laconian and see what Terry Bradshaw had to say about LCTI on *Today in America* and the other great activities that occurred at the end of the school year. Mrs. Himes, LCTI Executive Director has also recently reported: "LCTI will get the opportunity to be in a national movie called *Made in America Tour*. The company [producing the movie] is out of Atlanta and they are visiting 32 cities in 32 days looking at how manufacturing is doing in different parts of America. They will be filming in the Lehigh Valley on July 24th and LCTI is slated to be a part of it".
- We have plans underway to partner with the Southern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce to hold a student film festival /competition- open to all students and featuring students' understanding about businesses in our school district. This event, scheduled for next May, will highlight and recognize talents of our students and will serve to support scholarship funds. More information will be shared as details come together.
- Mrs. Quartuch, HS Social Studies teacher applied, and our High School was selected for the [Global Citizens in Action](#) program for the 2013-2014 school year. From their website: "A standards-based curriculum has been developed to guide student exploration of three broad modules: Cultural Exchange, Media and Society, and Global Citizenship. Global Citizens in Action (GCA) is a civic engagement program that connects students and educators in Central and South Asia and North America through a dynamic curriculum on cultural exchange, media literacy, and global citizenship. Run in partnership with [School of Leadership, Afghanistan \(SOLA\)](#), GCA pairs classrooms in North America with classrooms in Afghanistan/Pakistan for one academic year, from October through May. GCA builds cultural awareness and global citizenship through investigation of the driving question, "How do we, as youth, engage our communities to create positive social change?" Throughout the program, students engage in intercultural dialogue, explore media bias, utilize technology, and learn how to communicate and share ideas across cultures. By equipping students with these critical 21st century learning skills, GCA fosters leadership and motivation for youth to take positive action in their local and global communities."

- Items for Education Committee that was cancelled:
 - **Update on Common Core-** I provided an article in the [MAY 2013 Laconian](#) on the Common Core Standards explaining the history, purpose, and goals of the standards. We have not received additional information from PDE as to the status of the implementation of PA's Common Core Standards and have received conflicting reports on them. One of our teachers was at a conference in the past month when an announcement was made that PDE is moving forward, but nothing officially has been shared. Other news reports have implied that work will continue to be stalled. The following summary, shared from our Directors of Education explain our progress so far:

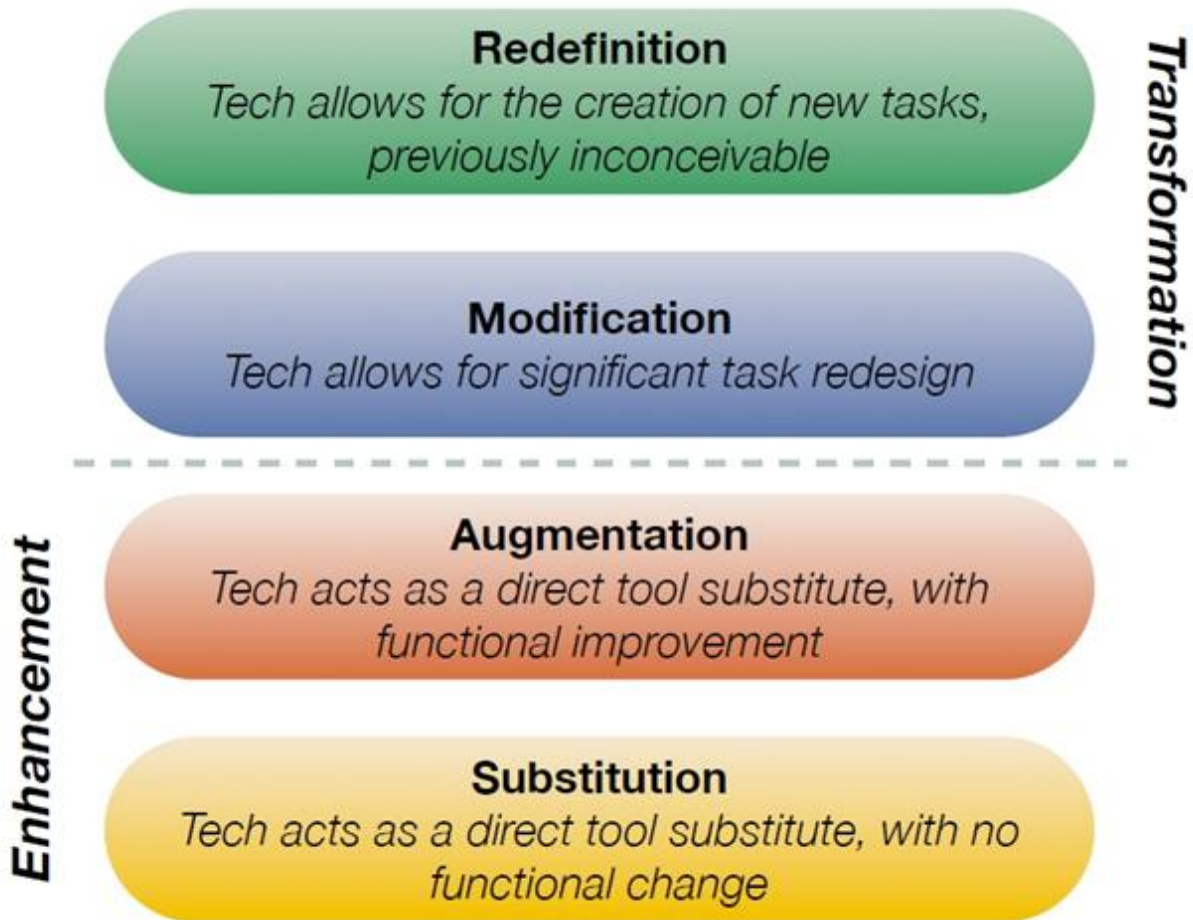
Mr. Jordan and Mrs. Takacs began research and training, as it applied to future plans for the district, on the Common Core State Standards in December 2011. They participated in trainings and workshops involving different companies, the state and our local IU21. In turn, they brought this information back to SLSD by providing training for the Administrative team as well as proving a series of parent presentations during the 12-13 school year.

Over the past 1-2 years, many of our teachers have been actively engaged in learning more about the Common Core Standards by participating in various workshops and classes. Many of these included the teaching of math, reading and writing which is the focus of these standards. In addition, there has been much opportunity offered by the curriculum office for professional development. Some training has taken place during in-services, academy and pull-out days in which a select group of teachers trained and interacted with various teachers in Content Networking Groups facilitated by IU21.

Our in-service PD plans for the 2013-14 school year include 3 days of professional development (Aug, Oct, March) on the Common Cores in which teachers will learn about instruction and assessment aligned with the Common Cores and have an opportunity to collaborate with their peers. In addition, we formed a K-12 Common Core Committee to help with in-service plans and meet with various vendors to determine who best would serve the needs of Southern Lehigh.

Additionally, all educational administrators have received training during admin meetings and we are currently having conversations with Salisbury SD to join efforts and collaborate on additional administrative training provided by Discovery Education.
 - **Enrollment update:** Our Transportation Dept. has been working hard to balance class sizes at the elementary buildings- a challenge experienced each year with flexible boundries. We continue to monitor class sizes and are concerned about our 2nd grade sizes of 26 at Hopewell and Liberty Bell. This particular class moving through the system is a bit larger than others. As in the past, we will talk with Principals about maximizing support for these classes with other staff (Reading Specialists, RtII staff, other staff and IA's) who are available within the building and planning for ways to differentiate instruction.
 - **SAMR Model** –Professional Development. “Dr. Ruben Puentedura is the Founder and President of Hippasus, a consulting firm based in Western Massachusetts, focusing on transformative applications of information technologies to education. He has implemented these approaches for over twenty-five years at a range of K-20 educational institutions, as well as health and arts organizations. He is the creator of the SAMR model for selecting, using, and evaluating technology in education, which currently guides the work of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative, as well as projects in Vermont and Sweden” (Hippasus.com). We will be sharing more about this model [Diagram below] with our Principals and teachers this year to help everyone better understand how technology may be integrated for higher order thinking/learning and for transformation of schooling toward 21st century student-centered learning. There are several websites on how schools are using SAMR to transform their schools, and many You Tube videos where Dr. Puentedura explains his model. For more information visit:
 - <http://youtu.be/rMazGEAiZ9c>
 - <http://youtu.be/cpK7h4mjUhm>
 - <http://youtu.be/NemBarqD6qA>
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/msad60.org/technology-is-learning/samr-model>

- **2013 Edu-Summit**- We currently have 141 educators (Over 50 from SLSD) registered for our shared event with Salisbury, Quakertown, Penn Ridge and Palisades. A few more schools are now participating. We've arranged for national keynote speakers, vendor donations and support for workshops, along with teacher/administrator presentations. The purpose of the 2-day event on August 13 & 14 is to collaborate, connect, share, and learn together for the benefit of our students. Focus areas include: Educational Technology, Common Core, Social Media, 21st Century Learning, etc. Visit the wiki at <http://buckslehighedusummit2013.wikispaces.com/Home> to learn more about workshops, keynoters, or sponsors.



http://www.hippasus.com/rrpweblog/archives/2011/10/28/SAMR_TPCK_In_Action.pdf